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# HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

New York African Society for Mutual Relief.

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ORGANIZED IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK 1808.

CHARTERED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF  
NEW YORK 1810.

NOW EXISTING UNDER THE GENERAL LAW OF THE STATE  
PASSED 1848.

THE OLDEST SOCIETY OF ITS KIND IN THE UNITED STATES.

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*New York*

Compiled by

JOHN J. ZUILLE.

1892

*Published in London 1892*

*at New York.*

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1892

The bequest of  
Daniel Murray,  
Washington, D. C.  
1925.

74-157373



# INTRODUCTION.

## FORMATION OF THE SOCIETY, PROCEEDINGS OF LEGISLATURE, &c.

The wars that had blackened the pages of history and put their foulest blot upon the men and the nations that slaughtered each other for differences of religious opinion had passed.

The great struggles that engaged the nations of Europe in contests for territory were still rife—when the new continent came in for its share of interest in the struggles that should in time develop a new civilization—bring in new elements of strife, or perhaps assuage the nature of the contests, making them different in character, or at least wider in scope.

Everything else brushed aside, here was this vast continent to be dealt with in its vast proportions. Here were myriads of people unknown before to the civilized world—untutored—but having splendid physical development, with a religion that acknowledged a “Great Spirit” which they turned to the East to worship, from whom the gift of vast wild lands had been received with all kinds of beasts, birds, fish and insects for food or raiment; with perfect freedom to roam where and when they pleased, free tribes of the forest, God’s men of the earth, undaunted in courage, unbending in will, brave in war—but without the knowledge of the implements of warfare such as Europeans had developed in their contests with each other.

To it was brought this vast sea from the Ocean of bloody strife abroad, and this virgin soil made an outpost of earth’s Sacrilegious contests.

The attempt was made to reduce the people here found to a state of servility and bondage. The effort failed to accomplish the purpose designed, and the slaughtered

thousands attest the extent of the foul attempt; and to this day the remnants of a once numerous race hold io the integrity of their fathers in defence of their forest homes, though not inclined to seek or benefit by the laws of advanced and cultivated civilization.

Nothing in those days could resist the power brought to bear by the men who discovered and were determinrd to seize and appropriate the soil, and to find somebody to cultivate it for their benefit.

It was to foster this design that Las Cassas, in a God forsaken spirit, looked to the shores of Africa to find victims to suit the aims of the Dutch, Portugeese, Spanish, English and French, to carry fire and the sword against the coast inhabitants of a country that were peacable tillers of the soil, but whose unfortunate customs made them the easy victims of a rapacious onslaught of nations advanced in the art of war, and each aspiring to be foremost in gaining new possessions in the new continent.

The success in introducing native Africans to the combined slave power of European nations was the beginning of untold woes.

The Islands of the Sea were the first polluted, but in 1620 the soil of Virginia received its first victims, coming in as it were arm in arm with the victims of religious oppression which at the same time were landed in Massachusetts on the rocky shores of her coast. In time New York had its quota, and with it all the paraphernalia of oppression's rod.

In the progress of events, a few early manifested a determination to free themselves from the iron hand of the oppressor; hence very soon there was a large class of men and women "who would be free." This spirit manifested itself in the esiablishment and maintenance of churches, and immediately after in the formation and support of beneficial societies.

First among societies was the formation of the New York African Society for Mutual Relief. After several pre-

liminary conversations and interviews a meeting was held in the school house for colored children in Rose Street, on the sixth day of June, 1808, and a constitution finally adopted and officers elected for its government: William Hamilton, John Teasman, Henry Sipkins, Adam Carman, Daniel Berry, Adam Ray, Daniel Brownhill, James McEwen, Henry Rouse, Samuel Charley, Richard Tankard, Samuel Clause, Benjamin, Slighter, Peter Vogelsang and others were present.

As soon as the Society got in working order steps were taken to present their claims for incorporation to the Legislature of the State of New York, as will be seen in the Record of proceedings of the Senate and Assembly in the Capitol at Albany.

Assembly of the State of New York :  
1810, Thursday, February 22.

The petition of the New York African Society, praying for an Act of Incorporation, was read and referred to a select committee, consisting of the members attending this House from the City and County of New York."

The roll shows the following gentlemen to have been members from New York City: Thomas Farmar, Augustus Wright, Solomon Townsend, Samuel L. Mitchell, Abraham E. Brower, Caleb Pell, Samuel Tooker, John P. Anthony, Ichabod Proll, B. M. Van Buren, Adrian Hegeman.

Assembly of the State of New York.  
1810, February 28th.

Mr. Brower, from the committee to whom was referred the petition of the New York African Society, reported :

That the petitioners pray for an Act of Incorporation, they having associated for Mutual Relief; and as their object appears to be the furtherance of their benevolent purpose, and no objection appearing to the Committee, they have prepared a bill for their incorporation and directed their chairman to ask for leave to bring in the same. Ordered that leave be given accordingly.



Mr. Brower brought in the bill entitled "An Act to Incorporate the New York African Society for Mutual Relief," which was read the first time and ordered a second meeting.

March 23, 1810.

A message from the Honorable the Council of Revision, delivered by their secretary was read, informing that it does not appear improper to the Council that the bill entitled "An Act to Incorporate the New York African Society for Mutual Relief" (and others mentioned, including the Mechanic Bank) should severally become laws of this State.

Note.—The Hon. Council of Revision examined all bills and petitions presented to either House, and decided upon the propriety of their passage or grant.

Senate of the State of New York.

March 19, 1810.

The Honorable, the Lieutenant Governor in the chair and a quorum of the Senate.

Among other bills the bill entitled "An Act to Incorporate the New York African Society for Mutual Relief" was read the third time. Resolved: That the bill do pass.

Thus began the corporate existence of our ancient and honorable institution. Ancient because the first society of its class organized amongst us that received Legislative aid. Honorable because for a period of more than eighty-two years it has stood the test of a severe public scrutiny, and to-day stands unsullied in its reputation; bearing aloft all its honors, challenging the admiration of the community, carrying with it the esteem of young and old of the present generation; increasing in strength, advancing in the accumulation of property and in all the elements that constitute the greatest respectability and highest of its class.

Our incorporation was far in advance of the spirit of the age. It was six years before the Legislature had passed the Act to make New York a Free State and about seventeen

years before such act should take effect. It was to usher in an incorporated society before the manhood of its membership was acknowledged by the community at large. *But it was the law.* March the 23rd was made a memorable day; to celebrate it in an appropriate manner, to appear on the public streets with flying colors and a band of music for the first time would surely attract a mob, and the consequences were feared amongst our own members, and to some extent, our friends. One friend remarked—and his remark was echoed by others—“Your society has a perfect right to every immunity which any other society has under its Act of Incorporation, and the city is bound by its obligations to preserve the peace, to protect and defend you; but such is the malignity of public prejudice that the authorities would be entirely powerless to protect you on the streets, and you would be torn in pieces by howling mobs.”

Nevertheless arrangements were completed and the order of march, headed by a full band, was ordered through the principal streets of the city.

“We will go though death stare us in the face,” said Hamilton, Latham, Teasman, Sipkins and the rest of them: and they did go, with hearts of true men: by their daring they compelled the monster public prejudice to falter in its step, so the men grasped him by the throat—hurling him to the earth—trampled under foot his prostrate body, proclaimed themselves the victors over him, with the right secured to march through the public streets of the city at will, then and thereafter forever.

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## THE MONTH OF MARCH.

### AN EVENTFUL MONTH.

The First Congress of the United States met March 4, 1789.



Maine was admitted into the Union March 15, 1820.

Andrew Jackson, the Hero of New Orleans, was born March 13, 1767.

Florida was admitted a State March 16, 1844.

Madison was born March 16, 1781.

Rev. John Peterson was born March 17.

St. Patrick was born March 17.

The Stamp Act was repealed March 18, 1766.

Yale College was founded March 19, 1700.

The Thames Tunnel was opened March 25, 1743,

Vera Cruz captured March 27.

The Crimean War ended March 30 1856.

The German Army occupied Paris March, 1, 1871.

The New York African Society for Mutual Relief instituted a corporate body by the Legislature of the State of New York March 23, 1810.

At the celebration of the passage of the Act of Incorporation an oration was delivered, the Constitution and dispatches were read and an ode was sung, composed and set to music by Mr. James Latham, one of the founders of the society, the principal streets were paraded, led by a good band of music, furnished from our own native talent; the houses of the gentry of the city were passed, greeted by the waiving of handkerchiefs, putting to rout the rowdy element, treading down any and all opposition to our march.

These celebrations were kept up for a number of years and were the principal features of our social life.

In 1827 the law for freedom in the State of New York was completed and the street parades were taken up by all our benevolent societies; after a few years the Mutual Relief withdrew to a more quiet manner of expressing their joy.

The act was completed and filed on the 23rd of March, but such was the difficulty of transmission and conveyance between the Capitol and this city that it took three weeks for the news to reach the city by stage and saddle horse conveyance. In that we see the difference between *then* and *now*.

That is not the main difference, for then the State of New York was bound hand and foot to the slave power of the nation, crippled in every limb of her intercourse with other States and by her own laws; self-bound, self-humiliated, her powers for good held back and the better features of her strength rendered prostrate by a crushing Juggernaut. But now how different, we can sit in our own houses and know what is going on in Albany the very moment that it transpires: we may experience the transmission of her ideas of freedom as with lightning shock when she proclaims that she is free from every tie except such as bind her to do the best she may for freedom, for justice and for equal laws to all her citizens, without regard to complexion, nationality or previous condition, or anything else incompatible with her present idea that as the common atmosphere is the equal property of all, so equally her laws shall protect and guarantee rights to all.

#### OUR FIRST CHARTER,

Remained in force until 1825 and application was made in due time for an extension of the time for the period following and the proceedings of the Legislature give the facts as found in the Journal of the Senate and Assembly.

Committee on expiring laws, to whom was referred the petition of the New York African Society for Mutual Relief, praying for a renewal of their charter, reported that the Committee prepared a bill in pursuance of the prayer of the petitioners, and directed him to ask for leave to bring in the same. Ordered that leave be given to bring such bill.

Mr. Cramer, according to leave, brought in said bill, entitled, "An Act extending an Act incorporating the New York African Society for Mutual Relief, passed March 23, 1810, which was read the first time and by unanimous consent was read a second time."

1825. Application of New York African Society for Mutual Relief to extend charter.

## ASSEMBLY :

Wednesday, March 2, 1825.

“Message received from Senate informing the Assembly that the Senate had passed the bill entitled “An Act to extend an Act Incorporating the New York African Society for Mutual Relief, passed March 23, 1810.

Thursday, March 3, 1825.

Mr. Wheeler, from the Select Committee, to whom was referred the Engrossed Bill from the Senate entitled “An Act to extend an Act to Incorporate the New York African Society for Mutual Relief, passed 23rd of March, 1810, reported—

That the Committee has examined the said bill and see no reason why the said bill should not become a law.

Ordered that the said bill be committed to a Committee of the whole House.

March 19, 1825.

Mr. Adams, from Committee of Nine, reported an Act to extend an Act entitled An Act Incorporating the New York African Society for Mutual Relief.

March 23, 1825.

Bill read a third time. Mr. Speaker put the question whether the House would agree to the passage of the said bill—determined in the affirmative—two-thirds of all the members elected to this House voting in favor thereof. Ayes 97. Nays 00.

Messrs. Adams, Angevine, Borst, Campbell, Coutant, Fillmore, Goodell, Hardenburgh, Hedges, Huntington, Lush, Medbury, E. Morse, Patchin, Plumpelly, Scofield, Stevens, Vanderhousell, Wheeler, Dexter, Faulker, Kennedy, Rathburn, Wilkin, Wire, Cockburn, Armstrong, Bostwick, Carpenter, Crane, Finn, Goodrich, Hasbrouck, Hill, Jackson, Marsh, Miller, J. Morss, Petit, P. Robinson, E. Smith, B.



Stoddard, Vanderheyden, G. White, Doe, Fellows, Knapp, Rhoad, Wiles, Zabriskie, Hall, Barber, Buck, Clayton, Cunningham, Fisk, Gurnee, Hastings, Hodges, Lawrence, McBurney, Mixer, Nortu, Pearson, St. John, P. Smith, S. Stoddard, Vrooman, B. White, Enos, Jones, Lansing, Rich, Winton, Anderson, Bedell, Bushnell, Cook, Devoe, Folts, Hays, Hubert, Lord, McKay, Monell, Palmer, Pitts, Schuyler, Stanton, Tredwell, Weed, Whiting, Esselstyn, Judd, Quakenboss, J. E. Robinson, Willis.

SENATE:

Wednesday, March 4, 1825.

“The Committee on enrolled bills reported that the Committee had examined the enrolled bill entitled “An Act incorporating the New York African Society in the City of New York, passed March 23, 1810, was read a third time: two-thirds of all the Senators voting in favor thereof.

Resolved, that the bill do pass, as follows: Mr. Clark, Mr. A. B. Dickinson, Mr. D. S. Dickinson, Edwards, Ely, Farman, Hawkins, Hopkins, Hull, Hunt, Talmage, Johnson, Van Dyke, Lee, Wager, Livingston, Waks, Mosely, Young, Nichols, Peck.”

“Ordered—That the clerk deliver said bill to the Assembly and inform them that the Senate has passed the same without amendment.”

RENEWAL 1840.

Legislature of the State of New York, Assembly.

February 3, 1840.

The petition of the New York African Society for Mutual Relief, praying for a renewal of their charter, was read, and referred to the Standing Committee on Charitable and Religious Societies.

February 11, 1840.

Mr. Clark, from the Committee on Charitable and Re-

ligious Societies, to which was referred the petition of the New York African Society for Mutual Relief, praying for a renewal of their charter, reported in favor of the prayer of the petitioners, and asked leave to bring in a bill. Ordered that leave be given to bring in such bill.

Mr. Clark accordingly brought in the said bill entitled "An Act further to extend the Act Incorporating the New York African Society for Mutual Relief, which was read the first time, and by unanimous consent was also read the second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Assembly, March 7, 1840.

Mr. Morgan moved that the bill entitled "An Act to extend an Act Incorporating the New York African Society for Mutual Relief" be taken from the general orders and referred to a Select Committee to report complete. The Speaker put the question as to whether the House would agree to such reference, and it was decided in the affirmative, two-thirds of the members voting for it.

Ordered, That Mr. Morgan, Mr. Rosevelt and Mr. Z. Clark be said Committee. Mr. Morgan from the Select Committee, to which was referred the said bill entitled, "An Act further to extend the Act entitled An Act Incorporating the New York African Society for Mutual Relief"

That the Committee had gone through the said bill and agreed to the same without amendment, which he was directed to report to the House, and he read the report in his place, and delivered the same in at the table. There it was read and agreed to by the House.

March 12, 1840.

The Engrossed Bill entitled, "An Act further to extend the Act Incorporating the New York African Society for Mutual Relief" was read the third time.

Mr. Speaker put the question whether the House would agree to the passage of the said bill, and it was determined



in the affirmative, two-thirds of all the members elected to this House voting in favor thereof, as follows: Yeas 99. Nays 00.

Messrs. Alaben, Belinger, Boughton, Brownson, A. G. Chatfield, Gould, Hoag, J. Johnson, Lasak, E. J. Porter, Preston, St. John, S. Smith, Springer, E. Clark, Dana, Devendorf, Ferris, McFadden, Morgan, Barker, Benedict, Busteed, Bryan, Fraser, Grout, Hubbard, S. Johnson, Phelps, P. B. Porter, Rice, Salisbury, Speaker, S. Stewart, Z. Clark, Dowley, Eldridge, Lay, Marvin, Nichols, Bassler, Bernard, B. Brown, Bryson, G. M. French, Halsey, Hewlett, King, Lawrence, Post, Rosevelt, Sanders, Spofford, Church, Conklin, Deniston, Enos, Little, Messereau, Niles, Bedell, Birdsey, G. Brown, Buck, M. D. French, Hegeman, Jefferson, Kniblo, Phillips, Pratt, Russell, Simmons, Meager, C. Clark, Croker, Deyo, Farrington, McClay, Miller, North, Osband, J. Stewart, Townsend, Weir, Williamson, Osborn, Strang, Trowbridge, Wood, Winant, Overbaugh, Strong, Vedder, Welsh, Wood, Peck, Taylor, Watson, Wheaton.

Senate, Tuesday, March 10, 1840.

A bill was received from the Assembly for concurrence, entitled "An Act further to extend the Act Incorporating the New York African Society for Mutual Relief, which was read the first time, and by unanimous consent was read a second time, and referred to the Committee on charitable and religious societies.

March 12, 1840.

On motion of Mr. A. H. Livingston ordered that the Bill from the Assembly entitled "An Act further to extend the Act Incorporating the New York African Society for Mutual Relief was read a third time and passed, two-thirds of all the members present elected to the Senate voting in favor thereof, as follows:

Messrs. Clark, A. B. Dickinson, D. S. Dickinson, Dixon, Edwards, Ely, Furman, Hawkins, Hopkins, Hull, Hunt,

Johnson, Lee, H. A. Livingston, Mosely, Nichols, Peck, Skinner, Tallmage, Van Dyck, Wager, Works, Young. Yeas, 23; Nays, 00.

Ordered, that the Clerk deliver said bill to the Assembly and inform them that the Senate has passed the same without amendment.

March 12, Assembly.

A message was received from the Senate informing the House that they passed the bill entitled "An Act further to extend the Act Incorporating the New York African Society for Mutual Relief."

A message was received from the Governor, stating that he had signed the bill entitled "An Act to extend the Act Incorporating the New York African Society for Mutual Relief."

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Referring back to the first organization of our society in 1808, we find that it was one year after the organization of the Society of Physicians and Surgeons of New York.

That we were incorporated six years after the Am. Bible Society was formed; 32 years before the introduction of Croton water in the city.

Eighteen years before the American Institute was founded.

Forty-two years before the Young Men's Christian Association was organized.

Forty-seven years before the Central Park was set apart as a place of popular resort.

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#### CHARTER UNDER THE GENERAL LAW OF THE STATE PASSED 1848.

The unanimity with which our first charter of 1810 was granted, the cordiality with which it was extended in 1825 and 1840, and the fact that no special transactions were entered into, nor any new obligations assumed and the society

going on easily, a renewal of the charter in 1855 seems to have been omitted until in 1869 the society took fresh obligations under the State law passed in 1848 by the Legislature, and under which our corporate existence is fully protected, and all our obligations and privileges assured in their fullest strength.

#### OUR FIRST PROPERTY.

Was acquired under the original charter in 1820, and the last purchase of property in Greenwich Avenue was made under our present charter in 1869, so that our legal obligations and corporate responsibilities would seem to be well covered, and our future operations provided for.

#### THE PARENT OF OTHER SOCIETIES.

Our society after its incorporation, exerted a wide influence in the community, as results would seem to show. In fact, it became so large that out of it sprang the Clarkson Society, the Wilberforce Benevolent Society, the Union Society, the Woolman Society of Brooklyn, and our documents were taken as models for many others.

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Our proceedings were conducted with spirit and intelligence, the meetings orderly and the elections well contested.

At one election, when William Hamilton, then President, and Adam Carman were candidates, the voting resulted in a tie between them; the President not having voted, had the casting vote and declared William Hamilton elected, but immediately resigned the choice, appointed a special election for President and announced that William Hamilton would not be a candidate.

The special election was held, Adam Carman elected and installed with other officers at the proper time. Carman served one term and was succeeded by Hamilton, John Teasman, Samuel Ennalls, Thomas L. Jinnings, Alexander Elston, Philip A. Bell, William P. Powell, Charles B. Ray,



William H. Anthony, John J. Zuille and Edward V. C. Eato.

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#### THE SOCIETY'S PURCHASE.

The Society's property on Orange, now Baxter Street, was acquired August 18, 1820, at a cost of \$1,800, and consisted of a lot 25x75, on the back of which the society erected a building which was used for its meetings and to accommodate other societies. It was in line with the residences of many of its prominent members.

It was urged also that while the location was not at all the most agreeable, that in the course of a very few years there would certainly be a change, and that Roosevelt Street would be widened and Orange Street must necessarily follow, giving an outlet to the shipping business which then centred near the foot of that street; which when accomplished would make our property one of the most valuable locations in the city.

The change so confidently expected did not transpire, and the hope of our members never realized itself, as commerce went toward the Battery and then up the North River side, while South, Water, Front and Pearl streets, each in their turn (especially Pearl Street) looming up for a long period, but finally fading from the front, lingered to fourth and fifth rate places, swinging round Wall street, Broad Street and the Custom House to find a more agreeable location, better tide, and a more encouraging outlet, which it found on Murray, Warren, Chambers, Worth streets and Broadway.

#### THE FIELD.

Our society has passed through a period of 84 years of existence and 82 years as a corporate body under the laws of the State of New York, holding meetings once a month with scarcely one month's omission, passing through the various changes that must occur in so long a period, not only

amongst our own immediate associates, but in the community at large,—that is to say, the formation of various societies and orders amongst the people, the temporary existence of some and their final abandonment,—and the war of 1812 between this country and Great Britain,—the bloody strife of Napoleon with the nations that were obliged to combine to check the career of that bloodthirsty genius, the bringing into existence and achievement of the independence of the Haytien Republic, as well as the independent governments of South America,—the struggle of the slave power of our country to spread itself over all the land and its final overthrow :—we would seem to have lived to bury the dead issues of the past, to emerge from under the weight that oppression and caste have imposed on us, to tread more firmly upon the soil now consecrated to Freedom and human progress,—to enter with sublime hope upon new fields of progress with fairer prospects, achieving by self dependence man's truest and highest destiny.

With real estate in our possession valued at not less than \$40,000, with a membership that includes some of the more active minded and physically strong of the men of our city ; some of whom are connected with the branches of business that give the best insight into the paths to prosperity, with every chance open to enterprise and success, we may look forward to a prosperity which the future can only positively reveal.

#### TREASURER AND TREASURY.

The important office of treasurer was filled by popular elections, the same as other offices ; in some cases with expensive success.

Our first treasurer made faithful collections, but after a few terms was counted short, and he took himself to parts unknown to the tune of five hundred dollars.

The second treasurer was scrupulously careful and honest, and made his accounts and pennies agree to the last half cent.



One treasurer made his figures and accounts balance to a fraction, but was short in his funds about eleven hundred dollars and straightway a ship took him to distant parts. He was a faithful worker, paid all small drafts against the treasury, but the balance in his hands was kept there.

Most of these transactions were under a system of "bondsmen," but in this case the bondsman had got rid of his property and nothing could be found or collected.

One of the succeeding treasurers acted under a system of deposits by a committee appointed by the society, who were not always present to perform duty, and the treasurer made deposits in person. These were not always faithfully done and resulted in a shortage of some hundreds of dollars by the treasurer, who was debarred from membership, but afterward made good his deficiency by paying monthly instalments to the society to reimburse it for said deficiency.

Under the law of 1848 for incorporating benevolent and other societies, the society became incorporated 1869 and a stricter system of finance was adopted and greater care ensued. No loss has occurred under our present system.

In consequence of the destruction of our books by fire, we cannot give a full statement of financial transactions, but the following is one which has been preserved from date as follows :

TREASURER'S REPORT.

| Dr.          | John Marander in acc. with N. Y. African Society for Mutual Relief. | Cr.      |
|--------------|---|----------|
| Nov. 9 1812  | To cash   | \$ 51.93 |
| Dec. 14      | "   | 18.00    |
| Jan. 11 1813 | "   | 18.50    |
| Feb. 8       | "   | 37.50    |
| March 15     | " 2 pyts.   | 37.10    |
| April 12     | " 2 "   | 13.80    |
| May 10       | "   | 23.00    |
| June 14      | "   | 17.00    |
| July 26      | " 3 pyts.   | 70.50    |
| Aug. 9       | "   | 65.81    |
| Sept. 13     | "   | 38.00    |
| Oct. 11      | "   | 16.12    |
| Nov. 8       | "   | 45.00    |
| Dec. 13      | "   | 20.00    |
| Jan. 10 1814 | " 2 pyts.   | 82.73    |
| Feb. 14      | "   | 57.00    |
| March 14     | "   | 51.00    |
| April 11     | "   | 5.07     |
| May 9        | " 2 pyts.   | 26.00    |
| June 13      | "   | 22.50    |
| July 11      | "   | 26.50    |
| Aug. 8       | " 3 pyts.   | 39.00    |
| Sept.        | No Meeting.   | 38.00½   |
| Oct 10       | To Cash 2 pyts.   | 20.50    |
| Nov. 14      | " 2 "   | 36.61    |
| Dec. 13      | " 3 "   | 1.00     |
|              | Balance   | 270.00   |

Settled the above account with John Marander this 23rd day of Dec. 1814. \$1148.17½  
\$1148.17½  
} Peter Vogelsang  
} Geo. Lawrence

Taking three years of the financial accounts, the following report shows the result of the examination of a careful committee.

New York, Feb. 11, '56.

The Committee appointed by the N. Y. A. Society for Mutual Relief to examine the accounts of the treasurer for the last the fiscal years, from Sept. 1852 to Sept. 1855 inclusive, respectfully report as follows :

At the last report dated Sept. 13, '52, there was a balance in treasurer's hands of forty-five dollars, fifty-one cents (\$45.51).

There has been collected for monthly dues during the above period the sum of five hundred and twenty-nine dollars, twenty-five cents (\$529.25) as follows: From 1852 to 1853 one hundred ninety-seven dollars, twenty-five cents (\$197.25); from 1853 to 1854 one hundred and eighty-four dollars, seventy-five cents (\$184.75); from 1854 to 1855 one hundred forty-seven dollars, twenty-five cents (\$147.25). There was also paid fifty cents for certificates, making a sum total paid by members of five hundred twenty-nine dollars, seventy-five cents (\$529.75).

The treasurer has collected for rents of Society's buildings during the same period the sum of two thousand ninety-eight dollars, ninety-two cents (\$2,098.92) as follows, from 1852 to 1853 seven hundred and eighty-four dollars, nineteen cents (\$784.19); from 1853 to 1854 six hundred and forty-four dollars, forty-five cents (\$644.45); from 1854 to 1855 six hundred and seventy dollars and twenty-eight cents (\$670.28).

The whole amount received by the treasurer for rents and monthly dues is two thousand six hundred and twenty-eight dollars, sixty-seven cents (\$2,628.67), which with the balance in hand at last report of forty-five dollars, fifty-one cents (\$45.51), making a total of two thousand six hundred and seventy-four dollars, eighteen cents (\$2,674.18).

There has been paid by treasurer on drafts duly audited the sum of two thousand twenty-three dollars, thirty-three

cents (\$2,023.33), leaving a balance in hands of treasurer of six hundred and fifty dollars, eighty-five cents (\$650.85).

We are indebted to treasurer on commission for collecting rents the sum of two hundred and nine dollars, eighty-nine cents (\$209.89), being ten per cent. on two thousand ninety-eight dollars and ninety-two cents (\$2,098.92).

Your committee also find that the treasurer has paid the sum of six hundred and eighty-six dollars interest on bond, being seven half yearly payments of ninety-eight dollars each, whereas he has only drafts for five half yearly payments of ninety-eight dollars each, which amounts to the sum of four hundred and ninety dollars (\$490.00);—consequently we are indebted to him in September, 1852, for commission and interest the sum of four hundred and five dollars, eighty-nine cents (\$405.89).

Signed,

Geo. Lawrence.

Jas. C. Cowes.

P. A. Bell.

The existence of our society and the very flattering manner in which its legal power was established, brings us to consider that with all the faults of man caused by conditions over which perhaps he has but little control, he is to a great extent his own developer, and in a large degree makes his own condition or commands respect from his fellow man, by the elevation on which he erects himself or makes his aim in life.

We may see that the combination we entered into and clung to with the aim of advancement was regarded as something more than a temporary expedient, so the law-making power of the State declared that our organization should be capable in law of purchasing, holding and conveying any real estate for the use of said incorporation. A spirit of self-reliance commanded the necessary aid.

Very many of the men that formed and maintained this society were known as mechanics and others of business hab-



its aiming at a better sphere in life, the aid afforded was doubtless looked upon as a stimulant.

We mention here the following examples doing business in the city: William Hamilton, Sr., William Hamilton, Jr., James Latham, Edward Latham, house carpenters. Henry Byrnes, Richard Augustus, Alexander Elston, Prince Loveridge, Isaac Gosiah, William Brooks, boot makers. Geo. De-Grasse, Thomas L. Jinnings, dealers in real estate. Peter Williams, Sr., E. Vincent, Ep. Davis, dealers in feed. Henry Scott, pickle manufacturer. Thomas Baggot, soap chandler. Thomas Downing, Boston Crummel, Moses Blew, Robert Watson, Peter Van Dyck, William A. Tyson, John Jackson, Francis Cook, oyster dealers or restaurateurs. Cato Alexander, inn keeper, to accommodate gentry riding out in first class vehicles or on horseback, near Shot Tower. William Hutson, intelligence office. Philip A. Bell, editor and publisher. Not least we mention Rev. William Miller, Rev. James Varick, Rev. Christopher Rush, Rev. Peter Williams, Jr., Rev. Thomas Paul, Rev. S. E. Cornish, Rev. Theo. S. Wright, Rev. John T. Raymond, Rev. Timothy Eato, ministers of our city churches.

We can see that we are to aim at something; be steadfast in pursuit and know that though we may not equal those who have superior advantages, that nevertheless to get even a slight hold and add to it will strengthen the limbs, nerve the arm and be the true incentive to future prosperity and final success.

A Report of the finances of the Society during the past few years shows a favorable state of facts.

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| 1887. The possession of the property 42 Baxter |             |
| Street, valued at.....                         | \$18,000.00 |
| Cash balance, 1886.....                        | 6,507.85    |
| Receipts for the year.....                     | 1,907.04    |
|  | <hr/>       |
|  | \$8,414.89  |



|                                  |            |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Paid out by drafts.....          | \$2,121.33 |
| Cash in hand.....                | \$6,293.56 |
| 1888. Receipts for the year..... | 1,731.21   |
|                                  | <hr/>      |
|                                  | \$8,024.77 |
| Expended.....                    | 1,190.95   |
|                                  | <hr/>      |
|                                  | \$6,833.82 |
| 1889. Receipts for the year..... | \$2,515.48 |
|                                  | <hr/>      |
|                                  | \$9,349.30 |
| Expended.....                    | \$7,514.36 |
|                                  | <hr/>      |
| Balance, cash.....               | \$1,834.94 |
| 1890. Receipts for the year..... | 2,881.38   |
|                                  | <hr/>      |
|                                  | \$4,716.32 |
| Expended.....                    | 1,753.02   |
|                                  | <hr/>      |
| Balance.....                     | \$2,963.30 |
| 1891. Receipts to July, '91..... | 3,162.15   |
|                                  | <hr/>      |
|                                  | \$6,125.45 |
| Expended.....                    | 3,033.81   |
|                                  | <hr/>      |
| Balance.....                     | \$3,091.64 |

## ASSETS.

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Valuation of Baxter St. property.....     | \$20,000.00 |
| Valuation of Greenwich Ave. property..... | 17,000.00   |
| Cash deposited.....                       | 3,091.64    |
|   | <hr/>       |
|   | \$40,091.64 |

## LIABILITIES.

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Mortgage on house, 27 Greenwich Av..... | \$10,000.00 |
|---|-------------|

## MUTUAL RELIEF.

AN ODE WRITTEN AND COMPOSED BY JAMES LATHAM,

And sung at the Annual Celebration of the New York  
African Society for Mutual Relief,  
March 23, 1810.

A noble end we have in view, to ease a brother's grief ;  
And mitigate each other's ills, by mutual relief ;

By mutual relief, by mutual relief, by mutual relief.  
By this judicious process, we will independent be  
Of those who very often spurn objects of charity.

Objects of charity.

To further our good designs our patrons have conferred  
Our patrons have conferred  
A law incorporating us, a law incorporating us  
On March the twenty-third.

A law incorporating us, a law incorporating us  
On March the twenty-third, on March the twenty-third,  
On March the twenty-third.

Thou hea'nly king who reigns on high, who mitigates our  
grief,

Who taught us happiness consists in mutual relief ;  
In mutual relief.

To thee we raise our highest notes in singing to thy praise,  
To thee we owe our gratitude till death shall end our days.  
Till death shall end our days.

Hail, hail the twenty-third of March,  
Hail, the twenty-third of March and banish ev'ry grief,  
Advanced is the Society for Mutual Relief.

For mutual relief, for mutual relief, for mutual relief.

Chorus :

Praise ye the Lord, Hallelujah!  
Praise ye the Lord, Hallelujah!  
Praise ye the Lord, Hallelujah! Amen.

In a printed address delivered by Peter Williams, Jr., before the New York African Society for Mutual Relief, on the 1st of January, 1810, in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, it is said that

The Society met at 2 o'clock p. m. at the school room of Rev. William Miller, Mulberry St., and proceeded in form to the African Church, where the service of the house commenced with a prayer by the Rev. James Varick, chaplain. After the Constitution being read by Mr. Aaron Lopez, an address was delivered by a member of the Society, and an anthem poem (Isaiah IX) set to music by Mr. J. Latham (a member of the society), was sung on the occasion. The service was closed by a prayer of the Rev. Wm. Miller, assistant chaplain. The Society proceeded from the church to Courtlandt Street, where they partook of an elegant dinner provided by Mr. Stagg.

## HYMN SUNG AT SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF

NEW YORK AFRICAN SOCIETY FOR MUTUAL RELIEF.

Composed by Willam Hamilton

And sung under direction of J. Latham

Before our first charter, January, 1810.

In every devious stage of man's  
Weak and precarious life,  
Though fortune deals out pleasure full  
Or a full share of strife ;  
Still on each other aid do we  
Continually depend,  
And mutually should each to each  
Afford a helping hand.

Perish should he whose sordid mind  
Knows of no care but self ;  
Whose hearing never is inclined  
To listen to distress.

But blest is he and shall be blest,  
 Whose feet are always brief  
 To run with lib'ral hand to give  
 Where wants require relief.

Bound by strong friendship's closest tie  
 In social union, we  
 Mutual relief and aid to give  
 Each other do agree ;  
 So to fulfill a law divine  
 By God of nature writ  
 And meliorate the many ills  
 By which life is beset.

With undiminished zeal let us  
 Pursue the path begun,  
 And ever where our duty calls  
 With cheerful footsteps run.  
 Still let our steady purpose be  
 To banish ev'ry grief,  
 By acts of kindness, social love  
 And Mutual Relief.



INCORPORATORS AND CHARTER MEMBERS,  
1808 and 1809.

---

William Hamilton,  
Adam Carman,  
Daniel B. Brownhill,  
Samuel Charley,  
Benjamin Slighter,  
Henry Somerville,  
Adam Crump,  
Charles Clark,  
Wm. B. Brown,  
Jacob Hutson,  
Peter Syms,  
William Hammond,  
Aaron Guy,  
Edward Dickerson,  
Scipio Phillips,  
Sylvanus Smith,  
Cæsar Hewton,  
John Marander,  
Samuel Hardenburg,  
Alexander Oliver,  
Thomas Miller,  
Geo. Knowles,  
Nelson Rollins,  
William Jones,  
Abram Cantine,  
Felix Boss,  
Daniel Swan,  
Charles Potter,  
John A. Johnson,  
John Rich,  
William Simpson,

Wm. Pentecost,  
John Cannun,  
John Teasman,  
Daniel Berry,  
James McEwen,  
Richard Tankard,  
William Thomas,  
John Lindsey,  
Joseph Phillips,  
Abram Arnolds,  
Francis T. Bull,  
Alex Grant,  
Edward Pew,  
Henry Heddy,  
Jas. Parker,  
Joshua Young,  
John T. Tate,  
John Burchell,  
Moses Evans,  
Gaff Van Clief,  
Peter Huggins,  
Peter McNeal,  
Andrew Williams,  
Tippo Gerhard,  
Philip Butler,  
Stephen Hannible,  
John Burns,  
Wm. L. Nichols,  
Peter Nott,  
James Anderson,  
John Washington,

Joseph Valier,  
 George Brown,  
 Francis William,  
 Thomas Johnson,  
 Henry Simpkins,  
 Adam Ray,  
 Henry Rouse,  
 Samuel Clause,  
 David Gunn,  
 John Lewis,  
 John Anderson,  
 Philip Jenkins,  
 Jesse Davis,  
 John Carter,  
 Peter Bayne,  
 James Irvin,  
 Benj. Smith,  
 Henry Burton.

Chas. Bootman,  
 Geo. Collins,  
 Gilbert Serrington,  
 Robt. H. Hunt,  
 Esop Hicks,  
 Epiphany Davis,  
 James Roberts,  
 Francis Cook,  
 John Bees,  
 Joseph Bono,  
 Eli Hamilton,  
 Aaron Grey,  
 Thomas Nichols,  
 Lewis Courtland,  
 Bristol Page,  
 Benj. Johnson,  
 James Townsend.

### MEMBERS.

|                                 |                                     |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Boston Crummell, Aug. 19, 1811. | John Carter, March 19, 1817.        |
| George Lawrence, Feb. 10, 1812. | Joseph Thompson, March 19, 1818.    |
| Chas. C. Brown, June 14, 1813.  | John Robinson, March 16, 1818.      |
| Geo. DeGrasse, March 13, 1815.  | Thomas Zabriskie, Sept. 14, 1818.   |
| Sam'l. Ennals, Aug. 9 1813.     | Robert J. Williams, March 19, 1819. |
| John Anderson, Jan. 9, 1815.    | Daniel Swan, June 14, 1819.         |
| Cato Alexander, April 8, 1816.  | Eli Hamilton, June 14, 1819.        |
| Neptune Birdsall, June 9, 1817. | Peter Nott, June 14, 1819.          |
|                                 | John A. Johnson, Aug. 9, 1819.      |

|                                   |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Aaron L. Poyer, 1819.             | Lewis Barnett, May 9, 1831.         |
| Thomas L. Jinnings, 1819.         | James Porter, May 9, 1831.          |
| Caleb Willets, 1819.              | Philip A. Bell, Feb. 11, 1833.      |
| James M. Clark, 1819.             | Wm. J. Poyer, June 10, 1833.        |
| Wm. J. Poyer, Dec. 19, 1814.      | George Chatters, July 8, 1833.      |
| Moses Blew, June 12, 1820.        | Jacob Francis, Aug. 12, 1833.       |
| John Cannon, July 10, 1820.       | John J. Washington, Sept. 19, 1833. |
| Edward Dickerson, Aug. 14, 1820.  | Rex Jordon, March 10, 1834.         |
| James C. Cowes, Aug. 14, 1820.    | Geo. A. Beckett, March 10, 1834.    |
| William Gibbs, Sept. 11, 1820.    | John Peterson, March 19, 1835.      |
| Thomas Hoffman, April 19, 1821.   | Eli Hazard, July 13, 1835.          |
| Henry Byrnes, April 19, 1821.     | Henry Michael, April 14, 1834.      |
| Sam'l. Hutchings, Sept. 8, 1819,  | Thomas Harris, Aug. 10, 1835.       |
| Henry Scott, Dec. 10, 1821.       | Jacob Stans, 1835.                  |
| Cornelius Johnson, Feb. 11, 1822. | Charles Horton, March 14, 1836.     |
| Ralph Dickerson, Nov. 11, 1822.   | Wm. H. Webster, May 9, 1836.        |
| Thomas Downing, March 19, 1823.   | Alexander Patrick, Aug. 8, 1836.    |
| Alexander Elston, Dec. 8, 1823.   | John Conyers, Nov. 14, 1836.        |
| William Fenwick, Dec. 8, 1823.    | Isaac Bristow, Feb. 13, 1837.       |
| Henry Carter, June 14, 1824.      | Medit Nixon, March 13, 1837.        |
| Philip Lacy, Aug. 9, 1824.        | William Gibbs, April 10, 1837.      |
| Isaac Gosiah, Aug. 9, 1824.       | Kingston Pease, May 8, 1837.        |
| Richard Johnson, Nov. 8, 1824.    | Peter Nichols, June 19, 1837.       |
| Prince Loveridge, March 22, 1827. | Washington Parker, July 10, 1837.   |

|                                     |                                       |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Edward Latham, Sept. 11, 1837.      | Glasgow Walker, Feb. 11, 1839.        |
| Edward Aldridge, Oct. 9, 1837.      | John B. Wilson, March 11, 1839.       |
| John S. Melvin, Nov. 13, 1837.      | William W. Essex, March 11, 1839.     |
| Henry W. Brown, Nov. 13, 1837.      | John J. Zuille, April 8, 1839.        |
| Jacob Wilson, Jan. 8, 1838.         | Nicholas Vick, June 10, 1839.         |
| James Young, Jan. 8, 1838.          | Felix Guinan, Aug. 13, 1839.          |
| John D. Connor, Feb. 12, 1838.      | Sheperd Reed, Sept. 9, 1839.          |
| Robert J. Cowes, June 11, 1838.     | Henry Stoughtenbergh, Sept. 9, 1839.  |
| David Copland, June 11, 1838.       | George Harrison, Sept. 9, 1839.       |
| Matthias Van Stay, June 11, 1838.   | Daniel F. A. Tilghman, Sept. 9, 1839. |
| James A. Smith, Sept. 20, 1838.     | George Pernell, Sept. 9, 1839.        |
| Abraham Carpenter, June 11, 1838.   | Paul Shields, Oct. 14, 1839.          |
| William H. Griggs, Nov. 12, 1838.   | John Smyth, Dec. 9, 1839.             |
| William Renssalaer, Sept. 10, 1838. | Henry Williams, Dec. 9, 1839.         |
| George Green, Dec. 10, 1838.        | William P. Powell, Jan. 13, 1840.     |
| Timothy Seaman, Dec. 10, 1838.      | Enos. E. Waterford, March 9, 1840.    |
| Albro Lyons, Dec. 10, 1838.         | Harman Canum, March 9, 1840.          |
| Francis L. Giraud, Jan. 12, 1839.   | Ackerman Hardenbergh, Mar. 9, 1840.   |
| Dunbar Brown, Jan. 12, 1839.        | Charles Anderson, March 9, 1840.      |
| Jacob Dorrall, Jan. 12, 1839.       | John W. Crump, March 9, 1840.         |
| Lewis Bodine, Feb. 11, 1839.        | John Osborn, March 9, 1840.           |
| Joseph Titus, Feb. 11, 1839.        | Charles B. Ray, March 9, 1840.        |
|                                     | Henry Buckley, June 9, 1840.          |



- Edward Augustus Poussaint, June 9, 1840. George Washington, Aug. 9, 1841.
- James Hunt, Aug. 13, 1840. David Cantine, Sept. 13, 1841.
- Charles Wilmore, June 8, 1840. James McCune Smith, Sept. 13, 1841.
- Isaac Treadwell, June 8, 1840. Benj. Myers, Nov. 8, 1841.
- John Gardner, Aug. 13, 1840. Sampson White, Nov. 8, 1841.
- George A. Bodee, Aug. 13, 1840. William M. Lively, M. D., Nov. 8, 1841.
- Isaac M. Mathews, Sept. 14, 1840. Samuel Byrnes, Nov. 8, 1841.
- Patrick Brown, Oct. 12, 1840. Samuel M. Giles, Nov. 8, 1841.
- Charles Webb, Nov. 9, 1840. Samuel Thompson, Dec. 13, 1841.
- Richard Baltimore, Dec. 14, 1840. Charles Cephas, Dec. 13, 1841.
- Henry Jackson, Jan. 11, 1841. William H. Mitchell, March 14, 1842.
- John Seymour, March 8, 1841. Geo. D. Jamison, March 14, 1842.
- James White, March 8, 1841. Samuel Ditcher, July 11, 1842.
- John Johnson, May 10, 1841. Geo. Harvey, Nov. 14, 1842.
- William H. Jamison, April 12, 1841. Alexander Duncan, Jan. 9, 1843.
- Samuel P. Francis, May 10, 1841. Joseph Anthony, Feb. 13, 1843.
- Charles Lewis, June 14, 1841. Francis Harley, March 13, 1843.
- Benjamin Fisher, July 12, 1841. E. Jackson, Dec. 19, 1843.
- Francis C. Lippin, July 12, 1841. Thos. Hodge, Dec. 19, 1843.
- William C. P. Bryce, July 12, 1841. Edward V. Clark, Jan. 9, 1844.
- Charles Gibbons, Aug. 9, 1841. Henry Deman, Feb. 12, 1844.
- Henry Stephens, Aug. 9, 1841. John L. Brown, Feb. 12, 1844.

- Abm. M. Mathews, April 8, 1844.
- David Rose, April 8, 1844.
- John Rock, April 8, 1844.
- Hiram Phillips, July 8, 1844.
- William C. Loveridge, July 8, 1844.
- Nelson Cook, Aug. 12, 1844.
- Geo. L. Phillips, Aug. 12, 1844.
- Nicholas White, Aug. 12, 1844.
- William H. Bogardus, Sept. 9, 1844.
- John W. Campbell, Sept. 9, 1844.
- Anthony Jones, Oct. 12, 1844.
- Peter Dudley, Oct. 12, 1844.
- Isaac Wright, Dec. 9, 1844.
- Benj. S. Jackson, Jan. 13, 1845.
- Aaron R. Hewlett, March 10, 1845.
- Abram P. Davis, May 12, 1845.
- Edward DeShay, Sept. 13, 1847.
- James H. Adams, July 14, 1845.
- Isaac Green, Aug. 11, 1845.
- John M. Dolan, Sept. 8, 1845.
- William Jackson, Sept. 8, 1845.
- Geo. H. Robertson, Feb. 9, 1846.
- Edward Thene, Feb. 11, 1846.
- Peter H. Stevens, July 13, 1846.
- Samuel Freeland, Oct. 12, 1846.
- Edward Gray, Feb. 8, 1847.
- Stephen Abbott, May 10, 1847.
- James H. Lodine, March 13, 1848.
- Jermiah G. Floyd, March 13, 1848.
- Amos Davis, May 8, 1848.
- Armstrong Archer, June 12, 1848.
- Harry Harder, Aug. 14, 1848.
- Richard B. Elliott, Sept. 11, 1848.
- Daniel R. Black, Feb. 11, 1848.
- Nathaniel Stubbs, Dec. 11, 1848.
- Isaac Anders, April 9, 1849.
- James Moore, May 14, 1849.
- William H. Buley, July 9, 1849.
- Francis Harris, July 13, 1849.
- Richard Davenport, Aug. 13, 1849.
- Fisher Sampson, Sept. 10, 1849.
- J. Blair Webb, Oct. 8, 1849.
- Daniel J. Elston, Oct. 8, 1849.
- Peter Vogelsang, Dec. 9, 1849.
- Arnold Ricks, Sept. 9, 1850.

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Wm. A. Elston, Aug. 10, 1863.      | Richard Davenport, re-instated Dec. 14, 1868. |
| James Bays, Oct. 14, 1866.         | Geo. P. Vogelsang, Dec. 14, 1868.             |
| James E. Stotes, April 8, 1867.    | Daniel. R. Black, re-instated Dec. 14, 1868.  |
| Walter B. Williams, March 9, 1868. | Thomas Ward, April 8, 1868.                   |
| Alfred J. Aldridge, May 11, 1868.  | James C. Mayhew, March 8, 1869.               |
| Geo. A. Manning, June 14, 1869.    |   |

#### PRESENT MEMBERS—WHEN INITIATED.

|                           |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Anthony, Wm. H.....       | Feb. 8, 1869   |
| Avery, L. S.....          | June 9, 1879   |
| Barreau, F. E.....        | May 10, 1880   |
| Beckinan, Geo. B.....     | March 11, 1878 |
| Black, D. R.....          | Dec. 14, 1868  |
| Boyer, Thomas C.....      | Nov. 13, 1876  |
| Butler, Frederick.....    | June 8, 1881   |
| Bicknell, F. A.....       | April 13, 1885 |
| Braxton, J. R.....        | May 10, 1886   |
| Brown, Wm. W.....         | Dec. 13, 1886  |
| Brown, A.....             | June 13, 1887  |
| Berrian, C. M.....        | July 11, 1887  |
| Cunningham, Henry.....    | July 12, 1875  |
| Conick, J. W.....         | July 12, 1886  |
| Carter, W. H.....         | Dec. 8, 1890   |
| Davis, W. S.....          | July 12, 1886  |
| Davis, John H.....        | Feb. 13, 1888. |
| Dias, John W.....         | Sept. 14 1891. |
| Eato, E. V. C.....        | Nov. 12, 1877  |
| Francis, T. B.....        | Sept. 13, 1880 |
| Girard, Francis L.....    | Jan. 12, 1839  |
| Graves, Isaac A.....      | Sept. 10, 1883 |
| Hutchings, Solomon W..... | April 12, 1886 |
| Harding, Harry D.....     | Sept. 13, 1886 |

|                              |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Hicks, John.....             | April 11, 1887 |
| Holbrook, E. B.....          | Aug. 8, 1887   |
| Hicks, Jacob T.....          | Aug. 8, 1887   |
| Johnson, E. C.....           | March 10, 1879 |
| Jackson, Thomas.....         | Feb. 14, 1881  |
| Jones, Thomas B.....         | March 8, 1886  |
| Jackson, Jr., Thomas H.....  | April 12, 1886 |
| Johnson, William Russel..... | Jan. 10, 1886  |
| Kissam, Warren S.....        | Dec. 13, 1886  |
| Linwood, James E.....        | May 10, 1887   |
| Lansing, Jr., Chas H.....    | April 8, 1889  |
| Manning, Geo. A.....         | June 14, 1869  |
| Mars, Wm. A.....             | June 14, 1869  |
| McKiel, T. B.....            | Aug. 9, 1880,  |
| McCombs, Alfred.....         | March 8, 1886  |
| Murray, V. C.....            | Aug. 9, 1886   |
| Rutledge, J. W.....          | Feb. 13, 1871  |
| Spelman, John B.....         | June 11, 1877  |
| Saunders, M. P.....          | Sept. 13, 1880 |
| Swan, Robert L.....          | Feb. 14, 1881  |
| Stanley, Frank.....          | Sept. 13, 1886 |
| Smith, W. H.....             | April 11, 1887 |
| Shepherd, T. F.....          | April 11, 1887 |
| Van Harler, Moore.....       | Dec. 11, 1871  |
| Vogelsang, John.....         | Jan 14, 1878   |
| Vogelsang, Geo. P.....       | Dec. 14, 1885  |
| Van Harler, Chas.....        | May 10, 1886   |
| Vaughan, Wm. H.....          | April 11, 1887 |
| Vaughan, John H.....         | April 8, 1889  |
| Walley, Joel R.....          | April 12, 1869 |
| West, Stephen A.....         | Sept. 11, 1871 |
| Williams, Jas. P.....        | March 8, 1886  |
| Warren, W. B.....            | April 11, 1887 |
| Wilson, Albert.....          | April 11, 1887 |
| Zuille, John J.....          | April 8, 1839  |

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EXEMPT FROM DUES FOR OVER TWENTY  
YEARS' SERVICE.

Francis L. Girard,  
John J. Zuille,  
Moore Van Harter,  
William A. Mars,

Wm. H. Anthony,  
Joel R. Walley,  
Geo. A. Manning,  
J. W. Rutledge.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

October 10, 1892.

GENTLEMEN :—

As we assemble to-night at the close of another year to review the past and arrange for the future of our society, our whole country is aroused with deep patriotism in celebrating an event,—the 400th anniversary of the discovery of our country. Little did Christopher Columbus think as he started on his exploring expedition from the old country, that he would open to the eyes of civilization and to generations unborn, one of the grandest and noblest countries in the world. A country which was to take foremost rank among all the great nations of the earth.

We, as a part of its citizens, have a right to enter most heartily in the event, for in establishing its great financial wealth, in the cultivation and enriching of its soil, etc., no nationality has played a more conspicuous part than the colored American citizen. For over two centuries and a half we have labored under severe burdens and unjust proscriptions, but when relieved from them, the manhood of the man was shown by his entering into those rights withheld, with confidence, believing

“That right is right—since God is God,  
And right the day shall win;  
To doubt would be disloyalty,  
To falter would be sin.”

This society, during the past century, has performed its part, and is an example of what concentration of efforts will accomplish. I am pleased to state that our financial affairs have shown an increase during the past several years.

#### TRUSTEE'S DUTIES.

The powers of trustees may excite discussion as to their limit, but it should not produce any spirit, of antagonism. The spirit of the law and the powers of trustees by the laws of our State are such, that the Society itself and the trustees can work together in harmony—laying aside all feelings of superiority—and cause our machinery of work to glide smoothly along without conflict. For the primary object of our society is to care for our sick, bury the dead and give care and protection to their families.

#### SICK MEMBERS.

I would emphasize the necessity that each member should forward proper notice in case of sickness, and during the period of illness. There may be a discrepancy in words alone, in our By-Laws, but that it is the intent of them that visitation should be made during illness, we all must agree. Aside from the financial aid, our Committee on Sick is expected to look after their other necessities, when called upon.

---

Mr. D. R. Black died on January 14th, 1892. He was one of the oldest members, for years a seafaring man, without any near relatives. It devolved on our Secretary, Mr. Barreau, to look after him in his declining days. He was buried from the A. M. E. Zion Church and interred at Cypress Hills Cemetery.

#### OUR HISTORY.

No one among our ranks of living members could more fitly fill the position of historian than Mr. John J. Zuille. For over fifty years an active member,—during his entire life a resident of our city, acting at all times in the public affairs

of our people, filling creditably positions of trust and responsibility, his knowledge of men, circumstances, etc., was great: his retentive memory as to facts, data, etc., fully equipped him for the position to compile a history of the start, growth and progress of the New York African Society for Mutual Relief. This has been accomplished and we anticipate it with considerable interest.

We feel that in the future some historian who may write the history of America and its progress, will be glad to add some little tribute to our work of benevolence.

In conclusion, for your repeated proofs of confidence in re-electing me to this office, accept my thanks, and let us believe that still greater success awaits us.

I am fraternally yours,

E. V. C. EATO.

N. Y., Oct. 10, 1892.

## REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

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NEW YORK, September 30th, 1892.

MR. PRESIDENT AND FELLOW MEMBERS :

The Board of Trustees in presenting this, their annual report, offer you their congratulations on the success which has attended the Association, notwithstanding the fact that the claims resulting from sickness have been more numerous than during previous years. You have listened to the report submitted by the Treasurer, and you will note that our disbursements for the year were very largely increased by a payment of \$3,000 on the mortgage held against our property, No. 27 Greenwich Avenue, also that the payments on account of sickness reached the unusual amount of \$420. We are compelled to report one death, that of Mr. D. R. Black, one of our oldest and most respected members.

Still, we should look upon any such contributions as a work of benevolence in that the living contribute their mite

to the families of their late associates. Taking this view we have therefore greatly extended our field of usefulness.

There is no study so interesting and improving to the individual as that of benevolence as applied in our social relations, and for eighty-two years this Society to which we belong has been proclaimed throughout the State and country as the leading institution in rendering aid and generous service to all who come under its wing.

Mr. President, this Society has never been discredited or dishonored ; it was elastic enough to meet its great and expansive needs, and judging by its past, we can prophesy only a glorious and successful future.

The pages of our early History contain the names of such men as Alex. Elston, Peter Vogelsang, Edw. Latham, Arnold Ricks, Isaac Gosiah, John J. Zuille, A. A. Lively, Jas. Bays and William E. Elston, and when we call to mind their unselfish support and earnest efforts to bring this Society through its infancy and to a strong and healthy manhood, it seems to me that we are all under the most binding obligations to perfect and perpetuate our existence as a Society.

J. W. RUTLEDGE, Chairman.

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Rents from No. 42 Baxter Street.....         | \$ 1,200.00         |
| Rents from No. 27 Greenwich Avenue.....      | 1,290.00            |
| Monthly Dues.....                            | 141.00              |
| Ex-Treasurer J. E. Stotes.....               | 25.00               |
| Rebates.....                                 | 6.25                |
| Interest.....                                | 73.39               |
|  | <u>\$ 2,735.64</u>  |
| Balance on hand October 1, 1891.....         | 3,406.71            |
|  | <u>\$ 6,142.35</u>  |
| Expenditures.....                            | 4,905.11            |
| Cash in Banks.....                           | <u>\$ 1,237.24</u>  |
| Value of Property, No. 42 Baxter Street..... | 20,000.00           |
| “ “ “ No. 27 Greenwich Avenue....            | 20,000.00           |
|  | <u>\$ 41,237.24</u> |



## ITEMIZED ACCOUNT OF EXPENSES.

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Paid on account of mortgage.....                  | \$ 3,000.00        |
| Sick Dues.....                                    | 390.00             |
| Gratuity.....                                     | 286.20             |
| Real Estate Taxes.....                            | 304.00             |
| Interest.....                                     | 458.33             |
| Water Taxes.....                                  | 17.00              |
| For Salaries, Repairs, Printing and Expenses..... | 449.58             |
|   | <u>\$ 4,905.11</u> |

WM. H. ANTHONY, Treasurer.

This is to certify we have carefully examined the accounts of the Board of Trustees and have found them correct.

{ CHAS. H. LANSING, JR., Chairman.  
 { W. B. WARREN,  
 { W. H. CARTER, JR.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF SECRETARY.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NEW YORK AFRICAN SOCIETY FOR  
MUTUAL RELIEF.

Gentlemen :—

I have the honor to make the following report for the year ending September 30th, 1892.

### MEMBERSHIP.

During the past year we have lost one member, Mr. D. R. Black, of Cuttyhunk, Mass. He died in the city on the 14th of January, 1892, and was buried by the Society from Zion Church.

The membership now remains at fifty-eight, no new member having been admitted this year, as the new Constitution adopted July 21, 1891, limits the membership to fifty. At the time of the adoption of the new Constitution the

membership amounted to fifty-nine, and so that no member in excess of the fifty should in any way loose any of his privileges the following motion was adopted.

*Resolved* that none of the present membership will be considered as waiving any right guaranteed under said Constitution where such membership dates before the adoption of this Constitution.

#### SICK AID.

During the past year they have paid to sick members \$390.00.

#### GRATUITY.

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Balance of gratuity of Mr. L. G. Miller. |                 |
| Paid to Mr. C. G. Bowser.....            | \$175.00        |
| Funeral expenses of Mr. D. R. Black..... | 111.20          |
|  | <u>\$286.20</u> |

#### EXEMPT FROM PAYMENT OF DUES.

During the past year their has been placed on the exempt list two members, Messrs. M. Van Harter and S. A. West, for twenty years' membership. There are now ten members on the exempt list.

#### MORTGAGE.

During the past year the sum of three thousand dollars have been paid on the mortgage of the Greenwich Avenue house, leaving a balance of seven thousand.

#### HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY.

Mr. J. J. Zuille, ex-President of the Society, has been engaged for some time preparing a History of the Society which will be ready for distribution at an early date.

#### RECEIPTS.

The receipts for the year ending September 30th, 1892, from all sources amount to \$2,735.64.

Rent of houses, monthly dues, etc.

Respectfully,

F. C. BARREAU.

\_\_\_\_\_

FIRST. That the corporate name of said company or society is "The New York African Society for Mutual Relief."

To raise a fund to be appropriated exclusively toward the support of such of the members of said society as shall by reason of sickness or infirmity, or either, be incapable of attending to their usual vocation or employment, and also toward the relief of the widows and orphans of deceased members.

FOURTH. That the names of the trustees shall be John J. Zuille, James E. Stokes, Edward DeShay, William H. Anthony and Arnold Ricks, who shall be such trustees and who shall manage the concerns and affairs of the corporation or society for the first year.

FIFTH. That the operations of said corporation shall be carried on in the City and County of New York.

Alexander Elston,  
Peter Vogelsang,  
Edward Latham,  
Arnold Ricks,  
Isaac Gosiah,

John J. Zuille,  
James E. Stotes,  
William M. Lively,  
James Bays,  
William A. Elston.

Dated New York, June 19, 1869.

State of New York, }  
City and County of New York. } ss.

On this nineteenth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine, before me personally came and appeared Alexander Elston, Peter Vogelsang, Edward Latham, John J. Zuille, Isaac Gosiah, Arnold Ricks, William M. Lively, William A. Elston, James Bays and James E. Stotes, of the City and County of New York, to me personally known, and known to me to be the persons described in and who signed the foregoing instrument or paper, and who signed the foregoing instrument or paper in my presence, and each of said persons at the same time acknowledged to me that they signed and executed the same for the uses and purposes herein mentioned.

WM. P. POWELL,  
NOTARY PUBLIC,  
CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK.

I approve of the within certificate of incorporation, and consent that the same be filed pursuant to the statute in such cases made and provided.

D. P. INGRAHAM, Justice.

Dated June 21, 1869.

State of New York, }  
Office of the Secretary of State. } ss.

It is hereby certified that the certificate of incorporation of the "New York African Society for Mutual Relief," with



acknowledgment thereto annexed, was received and filed in this office on the twenty-fourth of June, 1869.

Witness my hand and seal of the office of the Secretary of State, at Albany, this twenty fourth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine.

(L.S.)

D. WILLIS, JR.,  
Deputy Secretary of State.

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### ORIGINAL CHARTER.

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#### AN ACT INCORPORATING THE NEW YORK AFRICAN SOCIETY FOR MUTUAL RELIEF, PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, MARCH 23, 1810.

WHEREAS, a number of individuals of color have formed themselves into an association or society to which they have given the name of the New York African Society for Mutual Relief, the object of which is to raise a fund to be appropriated exclusively toward the support of such of the members as shall by reason of sickness or infirmity be incapable of attending to their usual vocation or employment, and also toward the relief of the widows and orphans of deceased members, and the said society have, by their petition to the Legislature, prayed to be incorporated :

AND WHEREAS, the views of the said petitioners appear to be laudable and worthy of legislative patronage and assistance, Therefore—

*Be it enacted by the people of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly,* That such persons as now are or hereafter may become members of the aforesaid association or society shall be and are hereby ordained, constituted and appointed a body corporate and politic in fact and in name, by the name and style of “The New York African Society for Mutual Relief,” and that by that name they and their successors shall and may have succession, and shall be

in law capable of suing and being sued, pleaded and being impleaded, defended and being defended, in all courts and places whatsoever, in all manner of action and actions, suits, matters, complaints and causes whatsoever, and that they and their successors may have and use a common seal, and may change and alter the same at their pleasure; and also, that they and their successors, by the name and style of The New York African Society for Mutual Relief, shall be capable in law of purchasing, holding and conveying any real or personal estate for the use of said corporation, *Provided* That the value of such real and personal estate shall not at any time exceed the sum of two thousand dollars per annum.

*And be it further enacted,* That for the better carrying into effect the objects of the said corporation there shall be a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and a Standing Committee consisting of eight members, who shall hold their offices for one year, or until others shall be elected in their room; that such elections shall be held at such times and places as the said corporation by their constitution shall direct; that all the aforesaid officers shall be elected by ballot by a majority of the members present at such election; and that in case any vacancy or vacancies shall happen in either of the said offices by resignation, death or otherwise, such vacancies shall and may be filled up for the remainder of the year in which they may respectively happen by a special election for that purpose, to be held in the same manner as the said annual elections, at such times and places as the said corporation may by their by-laws appoint and direct.

*And be it further enacted,* That William Hamilton shall be the first President, John Teasman the first Vice-President, Henry Sipkins the first Secretary, Adam Carman the first Assistant Secretary, Daniel Berry the first Treasurer, and Adam Ray, Daniel B. Brownhill, James M'Euen, Henry Rouse, Sam'l Charley, Richard Tankard, Samuel Clause, Benjamin Slighter, the first Standing Committee—to hold

their offices respectively for one year or until others shall be elected in their room.

*And be it further enacted,* That the said corporation or their successors shall have power from time to time to make and establish by-laws and to alter and amend the same, as they from time to time shall judge proper for appointing the times and places for electing officers; for the admission of new members of the said corporation, and the terms, conditions and manner of such admission, and the amount of the sums which each member shall contribute to the funds of the corporation, and the time and manner of paying the same; and also for the management, disposition and application of the property, estate, effects and funds of the said corporation, for the purpose of carrying into effect the objects thereof, and for fixing the times and places of the meetings of the said corporation, and the manner of conducting the proceedings of such meetings; and touching the duties and conduct of the officers of the corporation, and for imposing penalties for breaking or violating any of the by-laws, and also such other matters as appertain to the business and purposes for which the said corporation is by this act constituted, and for no other purposes whatsoever: *Provided always,* That such by-laws and penalties imposed for violating them or any of them be not repugnant to the Constitution and laws of the United States or of this State.

*And be it further enacted,* That when any member of the said corporation shall violate and break any of the by-laws so made as aforesaid, or shall become liable to any penalty imposed by any of the said by-laws, and shall neglect or refuse to pay the same, it shall and may be lawful in every such case for the said corporation to expel such members from said corporation; *Provided always,* that no members shall be expelled otherwise than by the votes of at least two-thirds of all the members present, at one of the stated meetings of said corporation.



*And be it further enacted,* That every member expelled from the said corporation in the manner prescribed in the preceding article shall thereafter be prevented from having or receiving any benefit, emolument or advantage whatsoever from the funds, property or estate of the said corporation, and that all payments or advances made by such member to the funds of the said corporation shall be forfeited to the same.

*And be it further enacted,* That this act shall be and remain in full force and virtue for the term of fifteen years, and no longer; *Provided, nevertheless,* That in case the aforesaid society, shall at any time divert from or appropriate their or any part of their funds to any purpose or purposes whatsoever other than those intended and contemplated by this act, and shall thereof be convicted by due course of law, that thenceforth the said corporation shall cease, and the estate real and personal whereof it may then be seized and possessed, shall vest in the people of this State; *And provided* That nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent the Legislature at any time, in their discretion, within the period aforesaid, from altering or repealing this act.

*And be it further enacted,* That this act is hereby declared to be a public act, and that the same be construed in all courts favorably and benignly for every beneficial purpose therein contained.

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STATE OF NEW YORK, {  
*Secretary's Office.* }

I certify the preceding to be a true Copy of a Law on file in this office.

DANIEL HALE, *Secretary.*

Albany, May 1, 1810.

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[*Extract from the Laws of New York for 1825.*]

CHAPTER LXVII.

*An Act to extend an Act entitled, "An Act Incorporating the New York African Society for Mutual Relief." Passed the 23d day of March, 1810. (Passed March 23, 1825.)*

*Be it enacted by the People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, That the "Act incorporating the New York African Society for Mutual Relief," passed the twenty-third day of March, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and ten, be, and is hereby, continued for the further term of fifteen years, from and after the twenty-third day of March next.*

[*Similar Act passed March 23, 1840.*]

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# CONSTITUTION.

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## PREAMBLE.

We, the undersigned, reflecting upon the various vicissitudes of life to which mankind is continually exposed, and stimulated by a desire to improve our condition, do conclude that the most efficient method of protecting ourselves from the extreme exigencies to which we are liable to be reduced, is to unite in an organization for the purpose of raising a fund for the relief of its members. In view of this we have formed ourselves into a society with the pleasing hope of relieving the occasional distresses of each other by mutual endeavor, and we do jointly agree to the following terms as the articles of our Constitution.

## ARTICLE I.

This society shall be known as "THE NEW YORK AFRICAN SOCIETY FOR MUTUAL RELIEF."

## ARTICLE II.

SECTION 1. The total membership of this society shall not exceed fifty (50) persons, who shall be elected by ballot.

SECTION 2. Applications for membership must be presented at a regular meeting in writing; the member presenting an application must vouch for the applicant's character; one-half of initiation fee to accompany application. All applications must be referred to a membership committee for report. The Society Physician must examine all applicants.

SECTION 3. A candidate for membership, when reported favorably to the Society, shall be balloted for at a regular meeting, and if a majority of the members present vote in his favor, he shall be considered elected; must sign the constitution and pay the balance of initiation fee.

SECTION 4. A candidate neglecting for six months after his election to present himself for initiation, shall forfeit his membership; in such case his election shall be null and void, and any money paid by him to the Society shall be returned to him.

### ARTICLE III.

SECTION 1. The initiation fee for membership shall be One Hundred Dollars (\$100.) and monthly dues twenty-five cents.

SECTION 2. Twenty years' membership in good financial standing shall exempt members from payment of dues.

### ARTICLE IV.

SECTION 1. The officers of this Society shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary and five Trustees.

SECTION 2. All officers shall be elected annually by ballot, viz.: on the second Monday in October of each year.

SECTION 3. The elected officers shall be installed at the first regular meeting of the Society after such election.

SECTION 4. Should a vacancy occur in any of the above offices by death, resignation or otherwise, a special election shall be held to fill such vacancy.

### ARTICLE V.

SECTION 1. The President shall preside over and preserve order at all meetings of the Society, state all motions, put all questions, announce the result of all votes, prevent any member from speaking when not directed to the chair, determine who shall speak first, when more than one rises; sign all orders for the payment of all accounts properly incurred and duly audited, and have a casting vote in case of a tie. In consideration of the faithful discharge of these duties he shall be exempted from the payment of the regular monthly dues. He shall annually appoint a Membership Committee of three persons and a Sick Committee of three persons.

SECTION 2. It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to preside at all regular meetings in the absence of the President.



SECTION 3. The Secretary shall keep a record of all transactions of the Society, conduct all correspondence, serve all notices in connection with his office; shall receive all dues, fines and initiation fees and pay the same into the hands of the Trustees, taking their receipt therefor; give notice twice to delinquent members when in arrears six months and for his services shall receive such compensation as the Society may from time to time direct. At the expiration of his term of service he must deliver all books and papers belonging to the Society to his successor.

## ARTICLE VI.

SECTION 1. The management and control of the temporal affairs and concerns of the Corporation or Society shall be vested in a Board of Trustees, five in number, who shall be elected annually by the Society.

SECTION 2. The Trustees shall receive all monies collected, for which the Secretary shall take their receipt; they shall pay all orders drawn upon them signed in behalf of the Society by the President and countersigned by the Secretary. They shall keep an exact and regular account of all receipts and expenditures in a book provided for that purpose, which book shall be subject to the inspection of any select Committee which may be appointed for that purpose. They shall report from time to time, the money which may be in hand, as the Constitution directs, and for their services shall receive fifty cents each for each meeting of said Board of Trustees, but in no case shall more than the above amount be allowed for any one meeting.

SECTION 3. The said Board of Trustees shall receive all monies for rent of land, tenements and from all other sources. All books, stocks, mortgages and other valuable papers, real and personal estate, including monies in bank or banks or property in any form or shape shall be subject to the action of the Society. All monies received shall be deposited in bank within forty-eight hours after receipt thereof. The Board of Trustees shall make monthly reports of their transactions.

## ARTICLE VII.

SECTION 1. All members who are financially correct on the books of this Society after a membership of two years,

shall be entitled to the following provisions for benefits and gratuities :

In the event of the death of a member of the Society, the sum of four hundred dollars (\$400) shall be paid within sixty days, from the funds, to such deceased member's wife, or family or legal administrator. The Society reserves the right to apply one hundred dollars (\$100) of said amount to the burial of such member, but in no case shall the amount paid in sick benefit be deducted from the death appropriation.

SECTION 2. In cases of old age, infirmity or permanent disability, a member shall have the right to draw the sum of three hundred dollars (\$300) as an advance of his death gratuity, on the certificate of the Society's physician, and the certificate shall be in all cases certified before a Notary Public, to relieve the Society from future claims.

## ARTICLE VIII.

SECTION 1. Should sickness confine a member to his room he shall receive fifteen dollars (\$15.) per week, dating from the day of his illness, for ten weeks. Should his sickness exceed ten weeks, he shall receive five dollars per week for ten weeks more, after which time all benefits shall cease, and no member shall receive more than two hundred dollars (\$200) during one year for illness. And in no case will sick aid be allowed to members, unless proper notice is sent to the Sick Committee, Secretary, or President of the Society during the sickness of the applicant. A doctor's certificate must be had before aid is given, and placed in the hands of Sick Committee. In no case will an allowance be made for less than one week's illness.

SECTION 2. Should it be proven to the satisfaction of the Society that any member receiving benefits has pursued his employment, been found spending his time in brothels, gambling or tippling, then such member shall be expelled from membership from said Society and forfeit all his rights thereunto.

## ARTICLE IX.

### PENALTIES, FINES, ETC.

SECTION 1. Any member neglecting to pay his dues for six months after being twice specially notified by the Secretary, shall not be entitled to the benefits of this Society.

SECTION 2. Any member found guilty of a misdemeanor tending to injure the interests or reputation of the Society, shall be dealt with as the Society may direct, but shall not be expelled unless by a two-third vote of the members present, called especially to investigate his case.

SECTION 3. All fines and penalties for any dereliction of duties or violation of the Constitution of this Society on the part of officers or members, shall be charged to and added to his monthly dues, and no member who has been so fined or incurred such penalties shall be entitled to sick or other benefits until such penalties are paid.

## ARTICLE X.

### MEETINGS.

SECTION 1. The regular Meeting of this Society shall be held on the second Monday of each month.

SECTION 2. Special Meetings may be called by the Secretary on the order of the President, or upon the written request of ten (10) members.

## ARTICLE XI.

SECTION 1. Any member changing his place of residence shall give the Secretary written notice of the same, on or before the next stated meeting of the Society.

SECTION 2. No person under the age of eighteen years or over forty years shall be elected to membership in this Society.

## ARTICLE XII.

SECTION 1. All deeds and assignments, etc., shall be drawn in the name of "The New York African Society for Mutual Relief."

## ARTICLE XIII.

SECTION 1. This Society shall not be dissolved while there are five members willing to continue it.

## ARTICLE XIV.

### AMENDMENTS.

SECTION 1. This Constitution shall not be altered or amended unless by a vote of two-thirds of the members pre-

sent at a meeting to be called for that purpose, and all motions made for the alterations in said Constitution shall be given to the Secretary in writing one month previous to said meeting. Proposed copy of amendment must be sent to each member.

### ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Fifteen minutes after the hour specified if there be five members present, the President, Vice-President, or President *pro tem*, shall call the Society to order.

2. Roll Call; each member answering to his name shall pay the Secretary his monthly dues and such other money as he may be indebted to the Society.

3. Reading of the minutes of the preceding meeting, of the Board of Trustees and Committees.

4. Election of candidates for membership.

5. Initiation of candidates.

6. Reading of applications for membership.

7. Reports of Committees.

8. Unfinished business.

9. New business.

10. Election of Officers.

11. Adjournment.



## OBLIGATIONS.

Previous to a person signing the Constitution, the President, in presence of the Society, shall deliver the following charge :

Mr. A. B., having been elected (according to your desire and agreeable to our Constitution) a member of this useful Society, it becomes your duty as such to support with firmness its interest, its regularity and its Constitution.

Will you, Mr. A. B., support the Constitution of this Society?

*Answer.* I will.

Will you preserve truly and faithfully the secrets of this Society?

*Answer.* I will.

Will you endeavor to attend regularly, or as often as lies in your power, the meetings of this Society, and in every respect strive to do your duty as a faithful, upright member?

*Answer.* I will.

Previous to the Secretary and Trustees' entrance on the discharge of their duties, the President shall deliver the following charge :

Messrs. A, B, C, D, E, F and G, the Society sensible of your merits, has honored you with the important stations of Secretary and Trustees, hence it becomes you to discharge your respective functions with vigilance and faithfulness.

Will you, therefore, promote the interests of this Society by faithfully and earnestly striving to perform the duties assigned you according to the true meaning and intent of the Constitution?

*Each must answer :* I will.

When the President and Vice-President enter into office, after an appropriate inaugural speech, they shall pledge themselves to the Society in the following words :

*I pledge myself to protect, support and maintain the Constitution of this Society ; to guard and promote the interests of this Society ; to preserve its regularity and good order, and to be faithful and vigilant in the discharge of my duty, as far as in my power.*





VS 186.









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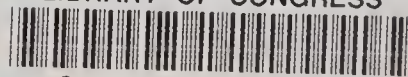
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